

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John Batiste



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For Immediate Release
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Vehicular Homicide Charges (2 counts) Grays Harbor Log Truck Fatality Conclusion

Detectives from the Washington State Patrol's Criminal Investigation Division have completed their investigation into the cause of the log truck fatality collision which occurred October 4, 2005, in Grays Harbor County. The collision occurred along SR 101 near MP 102, approximately 13 miles north of Hoquiam. As a result of the collision, detectives from the Washington State Patrol have submitted an investigation to the Grays Harbor County Prosecutors Office for two counts of vehicular homicide charges on the driver of the involved log truck.

The collision occurred at 10:55 a.m. along a two lane section of SR 101 when a fully loaded log truck, licensed to Leonard Logging in Chehalis, WA lost its load of logs which collided with a 1998 Saturn station wagon. The driver of the log truck was Garland Massingham of Centralia. The driver of the Saturn was Daniel Johnson of Seattle. Anthony Qamar was the right front passenger in the Saturn. As a result of the collision, Daniel Johnson and Anthony Qamar lost their lives. Both men died at the scene. It was later learned Johnson and Qamar worked for the University of Washington as seismologists.

On the day of the collision, detectives from the Washington State Patrol's Criminal Investigation Division and the Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.) carefully examined and documented the scene of the collision, conducted interviews with witnesses and examined evidence.

During the investigation into the cause of the collision, detectives learned that Massingham's log truck was 7,700 lbs over the legal weight. At the time of the collision, Massingham's log truck was being driven at an unsafe speed which contributed to the overloaded log truck crossing the center line. Detectives examined bolts which secure the front bunk to the frame rails of the truck, and learned they had failed. When the front bunk failed, the unsecured logs collided with the Saturn Johnson was driving.

Detectives have filed the following charge in the Grays Harbor County Superior Court:

District Eight

Clallam*Jefferson*Kitsap*Mason*Grays Harbor*Pacific*Wahkiakum

CHARGE:

1. RCW 46.61.520 Vehicular Homicide (2 counts)

Grays Harbor County Prosecutors Office Contact:

H. Steward Menefee – Grays Harbor County Prosecuting Attorney
Or
Gerald R. Fuller – Chief Criminal Deputy

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The attached photos were taken by the WSP. The media has permission to use them.

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